

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 07368 301339Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06
ACDA-07 SAJ-01 OMB-01 IO-13 EURE-00 /080 W
-----301356Z 031877 /23 45

P R 301125Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3843
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 7368

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GW, GW
SUBJECT: FRG-GDR RELATIONS AND THE LOEWE EXPULSION

REF: (A) BERLIN 7337; (B) BONN 21566

1. AFTER A WEEK'S SILENCE, THE EAST BERLIN PRESS
DEC. 30 RETURNS TO THE FRAY ON THE LOEWE OUSTER USING
AN N. IVANOV EDITORIAL FROM IZVESTIYA AND A RUDE PRAVO
V. HAVLICEK COMMENTARY. THE MAIN POINT OF THE IVANOV
COMMENTARY IS THAT THE WEST GERMANS CANNOT USE THE
HELSINKI FINAL ACT AS A BASIS FOR OBJECTING TO THE
OUSTER OF LOEWE, PARTICULARLY WHEN THEY ARE SILENT ON
THE MATTER OF THE RECENT APPREHENSION AND PHYSICAL
EXAMINATION OF AN EAST GERMAN CORRESPONDENT AT THE
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 07368 301339Z

LUDWIGSSTADT TRAIN STATION BY WEST GERMAN BORDER POLICE.
SECONDLY, THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT IN NO WAY CAN BE USED
BE WEST GERMAN MEDIA AS A DEVICE FOR INTERFERING IN
EAST GERMAN DOMESTIC MATTERS UNDER THE PRETEXT OF
REPORTING ON DEVELOPMENTS THERE.

2. THE HAVLICEK COMMENTARY IS A MORE PERSONAL ONE, IN THAT HE SAYS HE WENT ON SOME OF THE SAME TRIPS WITH LOEWE, HAD THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES TO TALK WITH GDR CITIZENS AND TO REPORT, AND FOUND THAT LOEWE ONLY WANTED TO TWIST FACTS AND PUT GDR DEVELOPMENTS IN THE POOREST LIGHT POSSIBLE. HE CLOSSES BY NOTING THAT NO ONE SHOULD MISUSE THE HELSINKI FINAL ACT AND THAT GDR HAS THE RIGHT TO SEND A REPLACEMENT FOR LOEWE, SO LONG AS HE RESPECTS THE GROUND RULES WHICH THE GDR HAS SET FOR CORRESPONDENTS.

3. THE WEST GERMANS ARE ALSO RETURNING ON DEC. 30 TO THE ISSUE OF THE LOEWE EXPULSION. FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION CHIEF GAUS WILL DELIVER A FORMAL PROTEST TO THE MFA AT NOON, CITING THE CSCE FINAL ACT AND THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS ON WORKING CONDITIONS FOR JOURNALISTS ATTACHED TO THE FRG-GDR BASIS AGREEMENT AS THE GROUNDS FOR PROTESTING LOEWE'S EXPULSION. THE PROTEST NOTE, WHICH WAS NOT IN FINAL FORM WHEN THE CHARGE SPOKE TO FRG PERMREP DEPUTY CHIEF BRAUTIGAM ON DEC. 29, APPARENTLY WILL SUGGEST THAT THE GDR RENEW ITS ACTIONS IN THE LOEWE CASE IN THE HOPE THAT SOMETHING CAN BE DONE SO THAT THERE WILL BE NO "LASTING BURDEN" ON FRG-GDR RELATIONS. WE UNDERSTAND THE FRG HAD MADE THE SAME POINTS ORALLY TO EAST GERMAN AUTHORITIES AT THE TIME OF LOEWE'S OUSTER.

4. BECAUSE OF THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL IMPORTANCE THE WEST GERMANS ATTACH TO THE LOEWE EXPULSION AND
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PAGE 03 BERLIN 07368 301339Z

BECAUSE THEY WANT TO MAKE CERTAIN THE EAST GERMANS UNDERSTAND THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE ISSUE, GAUS IS COMING BACK FROM LEAVE TO DELIVER THE NOTE. THE APPEARANCE OF THE IVANOV AND HAVLICEK COMMENTARIES, IN ADDITION TO SHOWING SOVIET AND CZECH SUPPORT FOR THE GDR POSITION, WAS OBVIOUSLY TIMED TO COINCIDE WITH GAUS'S MFA APPOINTMENT, WHICH WAS CONFIRMED ONLY LATE ON THE AFTERNOON OF DEC. 29. THEY WOULD SEEM TO TAKE THE WIND OUT OF GAUS'S SAILS. BRAUTIGAM SAID HE WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC, AND DID NOT EXPECT THE EAST GERMANS TO DO MUCH IN RESPONSE TO THE PROTEST. THE APPEARANCE OF THE IZVESTIYA AND RUDE PRAVO PIECES WOULD SEEM TO CONFIRM BRAUTIGAM'S PESSIMISM.

5. THESE DEVELOPMENTS ARE HARDLY IN THE SPIRIT OF THE GUTEN RUTSCH WHICH GERMANS NORMALLY WISH EACH OTHER AT THIS TIME OF THE YEAR. POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR, GW
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ullricre
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BERLIN07368
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976121/aaaaaajn.tel
Line Count: 114
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BERLIN 7337, 76 BONN 21566
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 APR 2004 by CollinP0>; APPROVED <03 AUG 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FRG-GDR RELATIONS AND THE LOEWE EXPULSION
TAGS: PGOV
To: SECSTATE WASHDC BELGRADE BONN BUCHAREST BUDAPEST MOSCOW PRAGUE WARSAW
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006